

West Virginia GEAR UP Program Staff Meeting

Location:

Advanced Technology Center (ATC)

Date:

March 2, 2023 • 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Directions:

Advanced Technology Center (ATC)
1201 Science Park Dr, South Charleston, WV 25303









Scan Me





March 2, 2023

WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP PROGRAM STAFF MEETING AGENDA

I.	Science on a Sphere						
II.	Welcome and Updates						
III.	The Changing Landscape of Financial Aid and the FAFSA11:15 am MorraLee Keller, NCAN Senior Director of Strategic Planning						
IV.	Lunch						
٧.	West Virginia GEAR UP Hope Scale Activity						
VI.	Jumpstart Savings Program						
VII.	Communication Update						
/III.	Cohort Breakout Session2:15 pm						
	Spring Mentoring Events						
	• GEAR UP U						
	STEM Speaker Event						
	Transition to High School Event						
IX.	Priority Breakout Session (Room 136)2:15 pm						
	GEAR UP Workplan/Benchmarks Review						
	College Decision Day Best Practices						
	Transition and College Readiness Family Event						
X.	Data and Research Update						
XI.	Regional Breakout3:15 pm						
XII.	Meeting adjourned4:00 pm						



Save the Dates

Site Coordinator Meetings

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30-4:30 pm, Advanced Technology Center, South Charleston, WV

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, Time TBD, Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, Charleston, WV

West Virginia GEAR UP Events

College Decision Day Events, April 1-June 1, 2023

Cultivating a Success Mindset with CoolSpeak, April 25, 2023, virtual event

STEM Speaker Series Event, May 18, 2023, Clay Center

WV Student Success Summit, July 12-13, 2023, Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center

Important Dates

WV Higher Education Grant Deadline, April 15, 2023

WV Nursing Scholarship Program Application Open, April 15-June 1, 2023

Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Application Opens, July 15, 2023





West Virginia GEAR UP Program Staff Meeting

March 2, 2023



Science on a Sphere

Science on a Sphere

Science on a Sphere®(SOS) is a room-sized, global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe.

The WV Regional Technology Park works collaboratively with BridgeValley Community and Technical College as the educational partner for the SOS display, hosting middle and high school students at the Tech Park campus to learn about earth system sciences.

Science on a Sphere is also available to community groups, K-12 teachers and classes, and higher education institutions.

The Science on a Sphere program is made possible by the support of BridgeValley Community and Technical College, the WV Dept. of Education, and other local businesses and organizations dedicated to advancing STEM education.







Welcome



WV GEAR UP PROJECT GOALS

- Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
- Increase educational expectations and knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation and financing among GEAR UP students and their families.
- 2 Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
- Increase students' and educators' hope and expectations for students' future postsecondary plans.

GRANT OUTCOMES ATTAINED

WV GEAR UP Objectives	Goal	Outcome Attained By
GOAL 1		
1a: The percentage of GEAR UP students who pass Algebra 1 or its equivalent by the end of ninth grade.	90%	Year 4
1b. The average daily attendance of cohort students will increase.	95%	Year 4
1c. The rate of students taking at least one Dual Enrollment course will increase. [Project-Specific Measure]	5% from baseline	Year 5
GOAL 2		
2a: The percentage of GEAR UP students who graduate from high school.	96%	Year 6
2b: The percentage of GEAR UP students and former GEAR UP students who are enrolled at an IHE.	55%	Year 6
2c: The percentage of current GEAR UP students and former GEAR UP students who enrolled at an IHE and persisted to the second year of postsecondary education at the initial or a subsequent IHE.	75%	Year 7
2d: The percentage of GEAR UP students promoted on time to successive grade levels.	99.7%	Annually

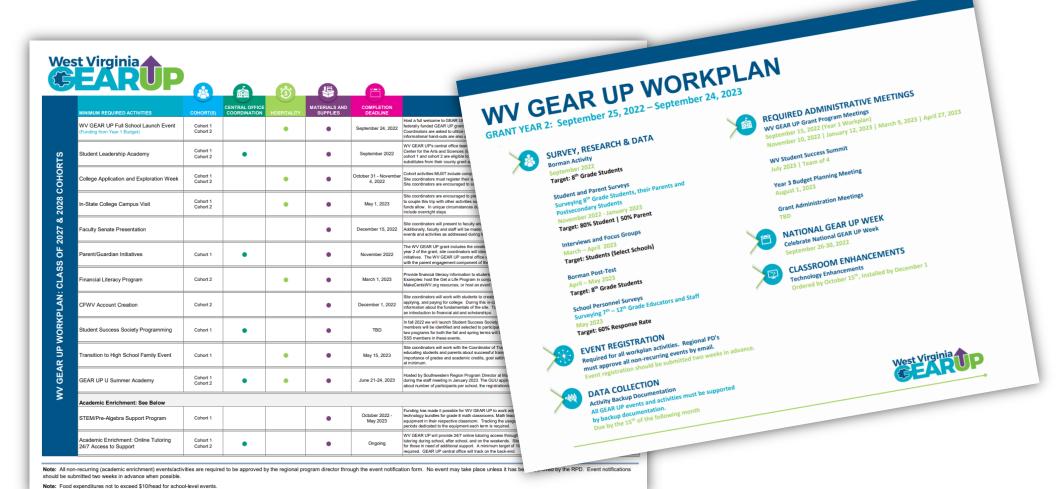


GRANT OUTCOMES ATTAINED

WV GEAR UP Objectives	Goal	Outcome Attained By
GOAL 3		
3a. The percentage of GEAR UP students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.	67%	Year 6
GOAL 4		
4a: WVGU students will increase hope as reported by the Child Hope Scale.	5% from baseline	Year 6
4b: WVGU educators, counselors, and administrators will increase students' educational aspirations/expectations of postsecondary options annually.	5% from baseline	Year 6
4c: WVGU middle and high schools will increase their College-Going Culture.	10% from baseline	Year 7



GOALS → OBJECTIVES → WORKPLAN





ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

2022-23 COHORTS

BRAINFUSE: Online Tutoring Software

Goal: 10% of all cohort students

Current Numbers: 42 Sessions | 681 Minutes | 11.35 Hours

Goal Example:

Madison Middle School: Minimum of 29 Students

Duval Middle: Minimum of 15 Students Walton Middle: Minimum of 5 Students



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

2022-23 COHORTS

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS: Classroom Tutoring Support

Goal: Minimum of 4 class periods each semester for all educators who were

trained and received equipment.

Current Numbers: 5 Schools | 440 Hours

Note: Additional data submitted being logged.

2022-23 PRIORITY

DUAL CREDIT: Submit class rosters and course completed with number of credit hours.

ACT/SAT PREP

AP Exams

BRAINFUSE





The Changing Landscape of Financial Aid and the FAFSA

MorraLee Keller, NCAN Senior Director of Strategic Planning







The Culture of Hope

"Hope is the bridge between the impossible and the possible."

- Joseph Bellezzo, M.D.

"Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you actually have a role to play in making it better."

- Hope Rising: How the Science of Hope Can Change Your Life by Casey Gwinn, J.D. and Chan Hellman, PH.D.

The Hope Score: https://hopescore.com

Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter than your past and you play a role in making it happen. Find out your level of hope now in your life. If you are a lower hope person, don't be discouraged. Hope is a verb and you can increase your Hope Score by the choices you make and the actions you take in your life. If you are higher in Hope, you need to begin to think about how to maintain high hope through the challenges and adversity of life. Who do you want to be? What do you want to do in your life?





What is our HOPE for our students?





Hope Activity

Hope for Self

Hope for Students

Hope for School

Hope for Communities/Families



Jumpstart Savings Program



Communications Update

Emily Hammond, Assistant Director of Communications and Outreach



New Resources on the GEAR UP Website

- Web banners
- Social media posts
- Fillable event flyers

https://www.wvgearup.org/



Cohort Breakout Session

- Spring Mentoring Events
- GEAR UP U!
- STEM Speaker Event
- Transition to High School Event

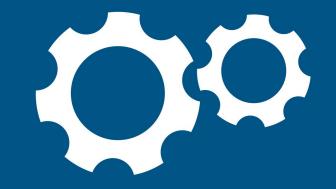




Cool Speak Spring Mentoring Event



Feedback



- Any feedback on our first event last week?
- Were there any challenges?
- What feedback did you receive from students?
- Next event: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 1:30 PM Zac Gowen will be sharing his story.





GEAR UP U Next Steps

Mallory Carpenter, Program Director and 2023 GUU Camp Director



STEM Academy Speaker Event

100

STEM Career Fair Participants

Notes on the Agenda

Registration Update





Transition to High School Event



Share Out

Any feedback and examples of best practices



Priority Breakout Session (Room 136)

- GEAR UP Work Plan/Benchmarks Review
- College Decision Day Best Practices
- Transition and College Readiness Family Event



Data and Research Update



WVGU External Evaluation—Surveys, Focus Groups, and Interviews

3/2/2022

Susana Mazuelas Quirce, PhD & Kim Cook ICF External Evaluation Team



Agenda

- School Personnel Survey (April 10-May 19, 2023)
- Priority Student Focus Groups: Grade 12 (March-April 2023)
- Cohort #1 Student Interviews: Grade 8 (April-May 2023)
- Cohort #1 Student Post-Test 5-Minute Survey (April 27–May 19, 2023)

School Personnel Survey (April 10 - May 19, 2023)

Overview:

- Survey of school personnel at all WVGU middle schools and high schools to collect the following data:
 - Background information on personnel and school (no identifiable data will be collected)
 - College-going culture
 - Involvement in school-level activities
 - Student engagement
 - Knowledge of college costs, options, and financial aid
- Survey results can be used to help program staff to customize activities and services accordingly

• Logistics:

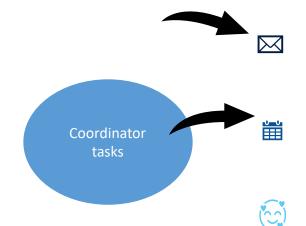
- April 10 May 19: Administrators, teachers, counselors, and other student support staff (including site coordinators) from all WVGU schools to complete online survey (accessible via URL and QR code)
- Target response rate = 60%

Priority Student Focus Groups (March - April 2023)

Why

- To know students' plans after graduation and understand the reasons/factors behind their decisions
- Findings will be used to tailor college and career resources and programming

Susana Mazuelas Quirce susana.mazuelasquirce@icf.com



• Five schoes:

- Clay County HS
- Hannan Jr/Sr
 HS
- Tolsia HS
- Tug ValleyHS Task

Participants:



- some students who <u>are not</u> on the college path
- some who are <u>unsure</u>
- some who are <u>definitely set</u> on the college path

Additional guidance provided for your school via email

Format:

- In-person focus group -OR-
- Virtual



- During school hours
- Around 45-50 minutes



WVGValgioha/Sogram Directors

& ICF-Withtenach out to site coordinators & provide guidelines

Site visit scheduling, recruitment of participants, & parent consent forms

Site visits & collection of signed parent consent

March 6th

By March 24th

April or May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Cohort #1 Student Interviews: Grade 8 (April - May 2023)

Why

- To follow student academic trajectories of the same students (from Cohort #1) in each year of the grant
- Findings will be used to tailor college and career resources and programming

Susana Mazuelas Ouirce susana.mazuelasquirce@icf.com

Coordinator

tasks

 Three schools:

- HŞ⊗
- Hamlin PK-9
- Webster County MS

Sherman Jr

& provide guidelines

Site visit scheduling & parent consent forms

Site visits & collection of signed parent consent

Format:

In-person interview

During school hours

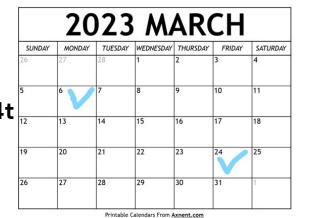
Around 30 minutes



(currently Grade 8 students)

The same 13 participants

who took part last year



ICF will reach out to site coordinators

Participants:

By March 24t

March 6th

April or May

0 0

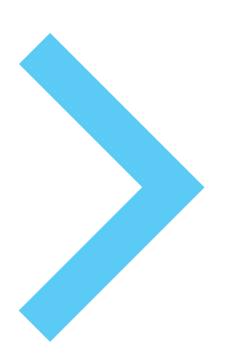
Cohort #1 Student Post-Test 5-Minute Survey (April 27 – May 19, 2023)

Overview:

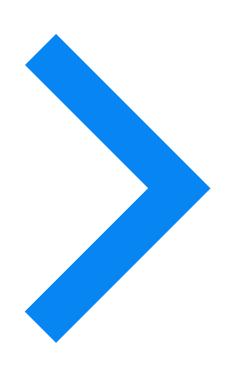
- Borman et al. (2020) developed two 15-minute reading + writing activities designed to foster social and emotional wellbeing. Several months after the activities, students who completed the activities had increased social and emotional wellbeing compared to those who did not—suggesting a significant and long-term impact of the activities.
- WVGU implemented these short activities last spring and this fall to support increased social and emotional wellbeing among Cohort #1 students. We are also testing to see if targeted WVGU services (e.g., mentoring) have an additive effect in improving social emotional wellbeing among students.
- The final activity for this study is to do the 5-minute post-test survey (measures social and emotional wellbeing)

Logistics:

April 27 – May 19: All Grade 8 students (except those opted out from



Any questions?



Thank you!

Regional Breakout



FAFSA OPENS SO MANY DOORS!

Let's talk what, why when and how to unlock those doors.



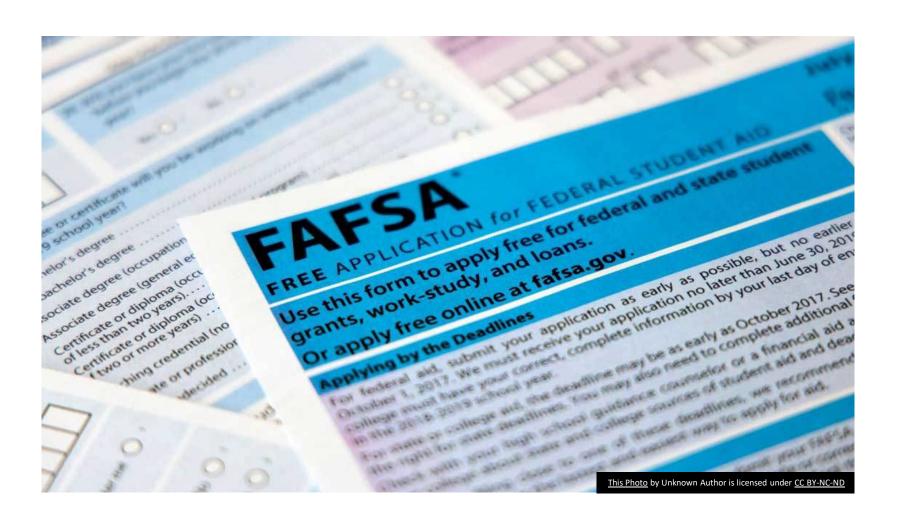
NEW SLOGAN: BETTER FAFSA BETTER FUTURE

MorraLee Keller

Senior Director of Strategic Program

National College Attainment Network

kellerm@ncan.org





WHEN SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT FINANCIAL AID/THE FAFSA

- It is never too early to start students thinking about post-high school college and career paths
- Middle school is the ideal time to begin to get them focused on a path
- Introducing the concept of financial aid that can help pay for college
- It is never to early to introduce the "FAFSA" word
- Offer regular information options to students and parents to learn about financial aid
- GEAR UP starts at the perfect time





WEST VIRGINIA STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS



- WV Promise Scholarship(Requires the FAFSA)
- WV Higher Education Grant Program(Requires the FAFSA)
- WV Invests(Requires the FAFSA)
- HEAPS Grant(Requires the FAFSA)
- Teaching, STEM, Nursing and other Scholarships(FAFSA not required)
- Federal and Institutional Need-Based Financial Aid(Requires the FAFSA)



WEST VIRGINIA FAFSA STATS

	Rank	% Change
Puerto Rico	1	37.7%
California	2	19.8%
Washington, D.C.	3	11.2%
Washington	4	9.6%
Louisiana	5	9.5%
Maine	6	8.3%
New Mexico	7	8.1%
North Carolina	8	7.6%
West Virginia	9	6.8%
Kentucky	10	6.8%

- As of 2/17/23 39.4% of the national Class of 2023 has completed
- Represents a 6.2% increase over last year
- West Virginia is currently at 39.3% of seniors who have completed the FAFSA
- Great news-WV has increased FAFSA completion by 6.8% over the Class of 2022. Currently ranked 9th in the country for increases
- Keep up the great work. FAFSA completion is a strong indicator for postsecondary enrollment



ENROLLMENT IMPLICATIONS

ncan.org

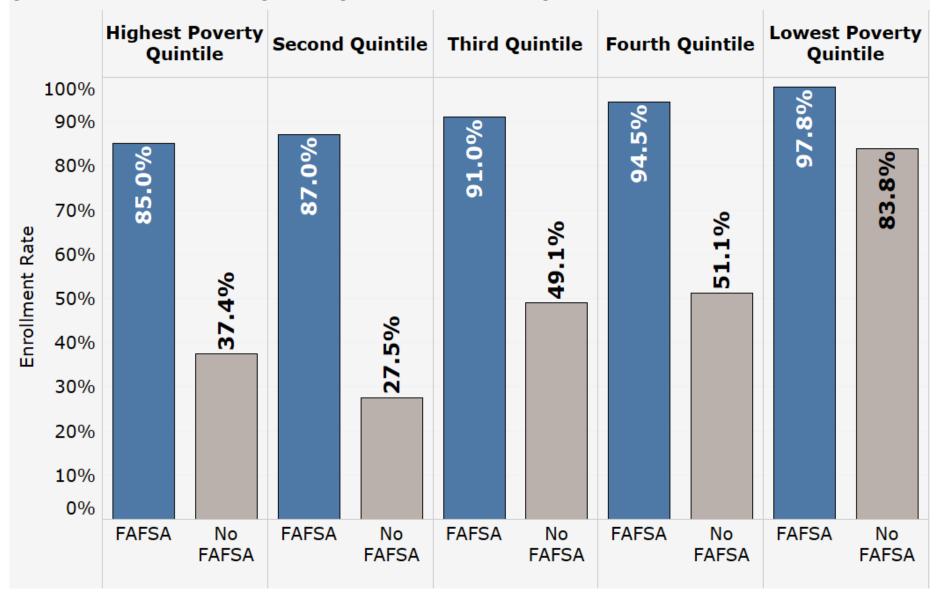


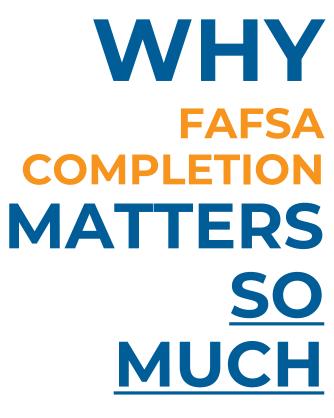
FAFSA
COMPLETION
IS THE
CANARY
IN THE
COAL MINE

High School Class	National FAFSA Completion Rate	Year-Over- Year FAFSA % Change	National First Fall Enrollment Rate
2018	54.0%	+1.9%	64%
2019	53.8%	-0.5%	62.9%
2020	52.0%	-3.7%	59.9%
2021	49.9%	-4.8%	58.8%
2022	52.1%	+4.6%	???



Immediate college enrollment following high school graduation, by percentile of district poverty and FAFSA completion status.







NOT FILING THE FAFSA IMPLICATIONS

WV Class of 2022 left \$17.7 million dollars of Pell Grants on the table

WV Class of 2021 left \$18.1 million dollars of Pell Grants on the table

Headed in the right direction



The high school class of 2022 left about \$3.6 billion in Pell Grants on the table by not completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), according to a new analysis by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN).



WHAT CAN STATES DO?

- FAFSA Challenges
- FAFSA Data Sharing
- Universal FAFSA Policies
- Encourage the Use of ESSER Funding for College and Career Readiness



COLLEGE & CAREER PATHS FOR STUDENTS

- Students need support regardless of the college/career path they choose.
- Credentials, certificates associate degrees, bachelor degrees, military or direct to the workforce are all viable paths for students to select
- There will very likely be a substantial "return on investment" for those who complete some type of postsecondary credential or degree
- Our job is to figure out how to best serve our students



WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON WITH THE STREAMLINED FAFSA?



FAFSA IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE 2024-25 AWARD YEAR

Streamline the FAFSA Form

Expanding access to IRS information for majority of filers

Two ways to determine Pell eligibility- SAI formula or Federal Poverty Tables

Replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)



STREAMLINING THE FAFSA FORM

- EVERYONE will need an FSA ID including those with no social security number!
- EVERYONE will be required to click a permission box at the beginning of the form to allow their financial information to be transferred into the FAFSA form
 - Includes non-tax filers
- Process REQUIRES transferring of data from IRS whenever possible
- Very limited paths for people to manually enter their financial data
 - Examples include separated couples, non-US tax filers, undocumented parents
- Number of questions has been reduced



STREAMLINING THE FORM

- Will confirm non-filers and hopefully eliminate non-filer letters required for the verification process
- Everyone with a separate tax form will have to log in and grant permission (e.g., married filing separately)
- At no time during completing the form, on the FAFSA summary or on the Student Aid Report, will you see any of the numbers transferred or the current response of "Transferred from the IRS"
- Will not have any opportunity to make corrections to these numbers
- Elephant in the room: The Department of Education has not committed to a date that the FAFSA will open. Could be as late as January 1, 2024.



THE STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)

- New name for the EFC
 - Better reflects the output from the FAFSA as an index, not as a reflection of what a family can or will pay
- SAI could be as low as **-\$1,500**, allowing neediest students to receive aid in excess of the Cost of Attendance
 - Non-tax filing families will receive automatic -\$1,500 SAI
- SAI determines eligibility for all other types of federal student aid except maximum and minimum Pell awards from the Federal Poverty Tables



PELL GRANT: DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

- Two ways to qualify for a Pell grant
- Will use federal Poverty Tables that match the income year to be reported on the FAFSA next year 2022 income information and 2022 Poverty Table
- Pell eligibility determination:
 - Is the student eligible for Max Pell per the Poverty Table?
 - Is the student eligible for Pell by SAI?
 - Is the student eligible by Min Pell per the Poverty Table?
- Max/Min Pell is determined by family size, family composition, and AGI
 - Family composition: one or two parent household (for dependent students)
 - Different tables for independent students-married or with dependents
- Students will receive the most generous Pell Grant for which they are eligible, either by SAI or the new min/max Pell measures



SAI FORMULA CHANGES

- Family size (not household size anymore) will be based on number of people claimed as exemptions on tax forms filed
- Will be an option to modify that number if it IS no longer an accurate reflection of family size.
- Parent info to be provided on the FAFSA will no longer be defined as primary custodial parent. New definition is "parent which provided the greater portion of the student's financial support."
- SAI will no longer be divided by number in college
- If required to report assets, the family would have to report the net value of any business or family farm – no more exemptions for number of business employees or farms on which the family residence is located



FORMULA CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- May require high percentage of families to USE the question that allows you to change family size (e.g., births, deaths, college graduates, criteria in divorce decrees, tax filing choices)
- With new definition of which parent(s) information belongs on the form may or may not be the custodial parent, may cause tense situations between student and parent, may modify eligibility for student
- How will non-custodial parents feel about having to complete the FAFSA?
- Current college students may need to change which parent to report



FORMULA CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- With number in college removed from the formula, many students may have SAI double or triple with no change in family income
- Students may see reduction or loss of Pell Grant or state need-based grant
- Will colleges make any adjustments for current students so as not to lose enrollments?
- Families with AGI >\$60,000 will be required to report assets (\$50K now)
- What effect will it have on SAI when reporting all business net worth and family farm values? Most likely higher SAI with no income change.
- How will we guide families to estimate business/farm net worth value?
- Will state aid programs make any adjustments to student eligibility?
- Can or will colleges consider any of these changes as a special circumstance?

THANK YOU FOR SERVING STUDENTS EVERY DAY!!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NO

QUESTIONS?